Vol. VIII. Numb. 31

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Speech of his Excellency the Earl of Wharton, *Lord Lieutenant of* Ireland, *to the Parliament there. Reasons for abolishing the Sacramental Test in that Kingdom, to secure Peace and Unanimity among Protestants there. The fatal Effects of the Principles and Practices of the* Laudean *Faction in that Country formerly. How our Tobacco and other Trade may be retrieved by Treaty.*

From Saturday, May 14. to Wednesday, May 18. 1709.

Country-m. I Want your Opinion of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*'s Speech, and the Proceedings of the Parliament there; for I assure you, Master, your *Roger*, is hugely pleas'd with them.

Obs. You have very good Cause, *Roger*; for if *Ireland* be not wanting to themselves, they seem now to have a very good Opportunity of making their Country happy; which I hope they will improve, by agreeing on such Things as may conduce to their Interest and Advantage, in order to lay them before her Majesty, who, as his Excellency informs them, has given him her Royal Directions, to acquaint them with her Intentions, to consent to such Bills as shall be thought reasonable and necessary, for their Ease, Happiness, and Security.

Country-m. I hope, Master, they will have a particular Regard to what his Excellency says of the *great Inequality of Numbers there betwixt the Protestants and Papists, and of the melancholy Experience they have had of the go d Nature of that Sort of Men, whenever they have had it in their Power to distress or destroy them; and that they will consider the evident Necessity there is of cultivating and preserving a good Correspondence among all the Protestants of that Kingdom; especially since her Majesty recommends an Union and Friendship among them so earnestly.*

Obs. 'Tis not possible, *Roger*, for the Wit of Man to think of better and more forcible Arguments to move them to it, than those his Excellency has made Use of for that End. If they remember the barbarous Massacre of 1641. and the bloody Rebellion of 1689, one would think there should be no need of other Arguments. There were two of the most remarkable Times when they had the melancholy Experience, as his Excellency justly words it, of the good Nature of the Papists; which is enough to convince them also of the good Nature of some Protestants among themselves and us, who, though they knew, that the Unanimity of the Protestants of the *North*, in defending that Kingdom against the common Enemy, had twice reduc'd that Kingdom from the Brink of Destruction, yet sent that unhappy Engine of Division the Sacramental Test among them, and found Ways and Means to foist it into the Act for preventing the Growth of Popery, tho' every Body is convinc'd, that nothing could more effectually promote the Growth of it. Certainly if the Parliament of *Ireland* duly consider this, they will lay hold of the present Opportunity to remove that Yoke from off the Necks of their Brethren, which neither they nor their Fathers knew or deserv'd, except they have a Mind, that the Yoke of Popery and Slavery be wreath'd about their own Necks; which they cannot hope to avoid any otherwise, than by listning to the present Call they have from God and her Majesty to do it; and if by their Disobedience they should again entangle themselves in a Yoke of Bondage, let them remember what a dismal Reflexion it will raise in their Minds, like that of *Joseph*'s Brethren, who read their Sin in their Punishment, and own'd, that God was just in afflicting them, when they thought themselves in Hazard of being made Slaves to the *Aegyptians*, because they had no Regard to the Anguish of their Brother's Soul, when they first put him into a Pit, and afterwards sold him for a Slave.

Country-m. I think, Master, if the Parliament of *Ireland* have any Regard either to their own Honour or Safety, they should not ballance upon the Matter. They cannot but know what unhappy Divisions, uncharitable and ill-grounded Principles, inconsistent with the Protestant Religion and the Revolution, their *Dodwells*, *Lesleys*, *Higgins's*, *Rapho*, *Drogheda* Men, and some of their Bishops have lately spread among us and themselves, and how unseasonably they began a Persecution of late at *Drogheda*. This shews the *Laudean* Papists are as dangerous to the Peace of the Church and State, as the *Romish* Papists, if they be not curb'd, and that Instrument of Division the Sacramental Test taken out of their Hands; for we have seen by those Instances above-mention'd, that the Principles of their *Laudean* Popery have drown'd all Sense of their common Danger from the inequal Number of Papists in that Kingdom, as it has done their Sense of Gratitude to the Dissenters, who were the chief Instruments, in the Hand of God, of their Deliverance.

Obs. That's plain enough, *Roger*. Experience of Things past, is a Rule that wise Men always observe for regulating their Conduct in Things present. Therefore, if the Parliament of *Ireland* give themselves Leave to reflect a little on the Conduct of their former Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of *Strafford*, Bishop *Bramhal*, and others of their *Laudean* Clergy, whose restless Passions for arbitrary Power, and the *Canterburian* or *Cassandrian* Popery then on foot, not only swell'd their Malice to such a Height against the *Scots* Presbyterians in the *North*, that they forc'd them by thousands out of the Kingdom, and to leave their Possessions behind them, but insulted that excellent Person, the Glory of their Church and Nation, the Lord Primate *Usher*, so much, that when his Lordship and other moderate Church-men press'd a new Ratification of the Articles of their Church, to keep out the Popish Innovations which the *Laudean* Faction were daily bringing in, they threaten'd to have the *Irish* Confession burnt by the Hand of the Hang-man, tho' it was ratify'd by Parliament, as we are informed by the *Charge of the* Scottish *Commissioners against the Earl of* Straflord *to the Parliament of* England. This, *Roger*, is so strong and so speaking an Instance of the Danger of suffering that Engine of Division, the Sacramental Test, to continue in *Ireland*, to be play'd by those hot-headed Church-men against their Fellow Protestants, that every Man who does not shut his Eyes against Demonstration, must be convinc'd of it. These Practices did so much encourage the Papists, and so much weaken the Protestants, that it brought on the *Irish* Massacre, which occasion'd the Murder of some hundred thousands of Protestants, and cost *Great Britain* a great deal of Blood and Treasure to recover that Kingdom. 'Tis likewise observable, that those execrable Murders were usher'd in by the same uncharitable Principles, which are now reviv'd with so much Fury of crying down the Church of *Scotland* as no Church, and unchristening all Dissenters in those seditious

seditious Pamphlets, call'd, *Examen Conjurationis Scoticæ*, *Lysimachus Nicanor*, *The ungirding of the* Scottish *Armour*, &c. writ by the *Laudean* Bishops and Clergy, and authoriz'd by the Earl of *Strafford*, which were of the same Spirit with what appears now in the Writings of their *Dodwells*, *Lesleys*, &c. and demonstrate the Necessity of her Majesty and the Earl of *Orkarton*'s Advice to the *Irish* Parliament, to cultivate and preserve a good Understanding among the Protestants of that Kingdom, and to enforce or explain the good Laws they have already, for preventing the Growth of Popery; and I look upon it as a good Omen, that they have wisely comply'd so far already, as to order a Bill for explaining and amending the Act for preventing the farther Growth of Popery; and I am heartily glad their Commons speak so justly and so honourably of their dissenting Brethren, in their Address to his Excellency.

Country-m. We must not forget what we promis'd about our Tobacco-Trade, Master.

Obj. No, *Roger*, nor must we confine our selves to one Subject, so as to omit other important Things as they occur, such as the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*'s Speech, and the Proceedings of their Parliament, wherein the Safety of *Great Britain* is so much concern'd; and I take it to be one of the greatest Proofs of her Majesty's Royal Care of that Kingdom, that she has been graciously pleas'd to send them a Lord Lieutenant in whom they may confide, who, by Education, Principle, and Interest, is engag'd to promote their Welfare, and who is known to be a Person of such Application and Courage, as enable him to surmount the greatest Difficulties. But to return to our Tobacco-Trade, *Roger*. Your last Question, was, *How our Merchants propose to have the great Decay of that Trade repair'd by Treaty?* To which I answer,

'Tis very well known, that the Tobacco imported into *France*, is let out to farm by that King, to whom the Farmers give a considerable Sum for it *per Ann.* so that none are suffer'd to import it, but themselves, which has rais'd the Price of it to such an exorbitant Height, that we are credibly inform'd, it goes at 2 *s. per* Pound, which makes it impossible to be bought by such as work for 2 *d.* and 4 *d. per* Day, and by Consequence hinders the Consumption of it. Now, *Roger*, to prevent this, 'tis humbly propos'd, that when our Plenipotentiaries come to treat, they may consider whether it be not proper for them to insist, that the *French* King should content himself with an Imposition of 2 *d. per* Pound, or some such small Sum, by which 'tis more than probable, he may raise as much Money as he now farms it for, or more, since 'twill enlarge the Consumption of it among his Subjects, by making the Purchase of it easy; and there's no Question to be made, but it will likewise increase his Revenue another Way, since it must necessarily encourage us to take the Product of his Country in Exchange, and enlarge his Duty on Exportation. Nor should this be stipulated for Tobacco alone, *Roger*, but for all our other Commodities, as Fish, Lead, Tinn, &c. which our Laws allow to be exported. Nor do I think these Things should be left to the Decision of Commissioners after the Treaty, which will only occasion such chicaning and Delays as happen'd to us after the Treaty of *Reswick*, with Relation to our *Hudsons-Bay* Factory, and the Tariff or Book of Rates upon our Commodities, but ought to be inserted in the Body of the Articles, that there be no Room left for the *French*, or others, to trick or injure us in any Branch of our Trade, or that any other Nation should get the Preference of us in those Things, as happen'd after the last Treaty; and considering the Necessity that *France* is under to comply with our Demands, there's little Doubt of our obtaining them.

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